GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1121
ANSWERED ON:05.03.2008
CASES OF DEATH DUE TO MENINGOCOCCEMIA
Murmu Shri Hemlal;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of death due to meningococcemia have come to the notice of the Government as reported in the 'Dainik Jagran' dated February 15, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Dainik Jagran dated 15th February, 2008 has reported 48 cases and 8 deaths due to meningococcemia disease in the capital.

As per the MCD report, 49 probable and 9 confirmed cases and one death due to meningococcal disease have been reported from Delhi from 1st January to 27th February, 2008.

(c): IN the wake of reporting of meningococcal disease in Delhi and surrounding areas in NCR region, the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare convened the meeting of an expert group on 13th February, 2008 to review the situation. The Expert group comprised of National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Indian Council for Medical Research(ICMR), Medical Superintendent of major hospitals of Delhi, MCD, NDMC and Delhi Government. It was observed that all the major hospitals are fully equipped to manage the cases of this illness, having sufficient stock of medicines and laboratory reagents. All the hospitals have been directed to ensure regular and timely reporting of cases to MCD, which has been identified as the nodal agency to coordinate all the activities.

MCD has already initiated IEC measures and chemoprophylaxis is being given to high risk personnel such as health care/laboratory worker and close contacts of the cases.

NICD is providing referral diagnostic services. NICD has tested 44 clinical samples received from different hospitals from 1st January to 27th February, 2008. Out of 44, 8 (18.2%) samples were found positive for serotype-A meningcocos.

To monitor the situation of the disease on day to day basis and to know the trend of the disease, the information on the meningococcal disease is being collected regularly from the control room, established at MCD office. Epidemiological analysis is being carried out by the NICD and the weekly report is being sent to the MCD for taking further necessary action.

NICD also provides technical guidelines to States neighbouring Delhi to prevent and control meningococcal diseases, including training and laboratory support to hospitals.